

Veterans Day 2006

A stylized graphic featuring a black silhouette of a soldier in a saluting pose, positioned behind the letter 'e' in 'Veterans'. To the right of the word 'Day' are three wavy lines representing a flag, and below 'Day' is the year '2006'.

Student Resources



Veterans Day 2006

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Day National Committee are pleased to provide this Teachers Resource Guide. It is our hope that by thanking America's veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice, we can reward them with the honor they so richly deserve.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 7, 2006

I send greetings to our Nation's students and teachers as we celebrate Veterans Day.

America is greatly indebted to those who have sacrificed for the liberty and security of our country. When it has mattered most, men and women from every corner of our Nation have taken up arms to uphold the ideals of America's founding. Our military members have been unrelenting in battle, unwavering in loyalty, and unmatched in honor. They have demonstrated to us that freedom is the most powerful force on Earth, and they continue to inspire new generations of Americans.

On Veterans Day and throughout the year, we remember our veterans' enduring accomplishments and honor their commitment to our country. You can pay tribute to America's veterans by participating in patriotic activities, displaying our national flag, reaching out to veterans in your community, or giving your time and talents to support our troops and their families. Mrs. Bush and I appreciate your efforts to celebrate this important day and to learn more about our veterans and our Nation's history.

We send our best wishes for a memorable Veterans Day. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GWB", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



"A SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD"

In 1921, an American soldier—his name “known but to God”—was buried on a Virginia hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, DC. The burial site of this unknown World War I soldier in Arlington National Cemetery symbolized dignity and reverence for America’s veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an “unknown soldier” of the Great War was buried in each nation’s highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe).

These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I hostilities at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as “Armistice Day.”

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If World War I had indeed been “the war to end all wars,” November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But in 1939, World War II broke out in Europe and shattered that dream. Of the 16 million Americans who served in the Armed Forces during World War II, more than 400,000 died.

“TO HONOR VETERANS OF ALL WARS”

Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Alabama, organized a Veterans Day parade for that city on November 11, 1947, to honor all of America's veterans for their loyal service. Later, U.S. Representative Edward H. Rees of Kansas proposed legislation changing the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day to honor all those who have served America in all wars.

In 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11th as Veterans Day and called upon Americans everywhere to rededicate themselves to the cause of peace. He issued a Presidential Order directing the head of the Veterans Administration, now the Department of Veterans Affairs, to form a Veterans Day National Committee to organize and oversee the national observance of Veterans Day. In addition to fulfilling that mission, the committee oversees the annual production and distribution of the Veterans Day Poster and this Veterans Day Teachers Resource Guide.

In 1968, Congress moved Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. However, it became apparent that the November 11th date was historically significant to a great many Americans. As a result, Congress formally returned the observance of Veterans Day to its traditional date in 1978.

The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11th at Arlington National Cemetery. At 11 a.m., a color guard, made up of members from each of the military services, renders honors to America's war dead during a tradition-rich ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

The President or his representative places a wreath at the Tomb and a bugler sounds “Taps.” The balance of the ceremony, including a “Parade of Flags” by numerous veterans service organizations, takes place inside the Memorial Amphitheater, adjacent to the Tomb.

In addition to planning and coordinating the National Veterans Day Ceremony, the Veterans Day National Committee supports a number of Veterans Day Regional Sites. These sites conduct Veterans Day celebrations that provide excellent examples for other communities to follow.

Congress formally returned the observance of Veterans Day to its traditional date in
1978.





Lessons of Liberty

America was founded on the principles of liberty, opportunity, and justice for all, and on Veterans Day we recognize the men and women of our Armed Forces who have valiantly defended these values throughout our Nation's history.

Veterans Day is also a great opportunity to teach younger generations about veterans and their role in securing the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans. One of the best ways to teach this lesson is to invite veterans to participate in school Veterans Day observances.

President George W. Bush encouraged educators to invite veterans into schools during the week of Veterans Day when he started the Lessons of Liberty initiative in 2001. "I have a special mission for our veterans, and a special request of our schools," President Bush told students and educators at a high school near Washington, D.C., on Oct. 30, 2001.

"I ask all public, private and home schools to join our Lessons for Liberty initiative, by inviting a veteran to speak to your students during the week of Veterans Day. American veterans have extraordinary stories. We should listen to them. American veterans preserved our world and freedom, and we should honor them. American veterans show us the meaning of sacrifice and citizenship, and we should learn from them."

By sharing their first-hand experiences during some of the most proud and dramatic moments in our history, veterans can help educate and inspire a new generation of Americans.

The Lessons of Liberty initiative is supported by veterans groups across America. For a directory of veterans service organizations, please visit <http://www.va.gov/vso/> or contact the Department of Veterans Affairs by looking in the federal government section of the local telephone directory.

For additional information on the Lessons of Liberty initiative, please visit: <http://www.va.gov/opa/iga/liberty/index.asp>.



The Nike swoosh and McDonalds golden arches – corporate America calls them logos – are symbols that automatically identify a business in the public mind. They are closely guarded and protected and worth millions of dollars. Symbols are just as important to government agencies. A Federal agency's official seal, for example, carries the full weight and impact of the laws, resources and responsibilities vested in it by the American people.

VA's current seal dates back to 1989 when the then Veterans Administration, an independent agency of the Federal government, became a Cabinet member agency (now the Department of Veterans Affairs). This brought many changes to VA, including a new VA seal.

The reproduction and use of the VA seal is specified by law (38 CFR 1.9). It is reserved for limited use as the symbol of governmental authority invested by the Department. The seal identifies all official documents, certifications, awards, publications, regulations and reports.



A design submitted by David Gregory, a medical media production specialist working at the Indianapolis VA Medical Center was chosen. He focused on traditional American symbols and his own innovative symbolism to visually convey VA's special mission.



Scholarships

The Military Order of the Purple Heart Scholarship is offered to a direct descendant of a Purple Heart recipient. A veteran's spouse, children, grandchildren, natural, adopted and or step are all eligible. Qualifications include proof of the Purple Heart, 2.75 GPA and a full time student at a college/university or trade school. Please visit their web site at www.purpleheart.org.

The Military Officers Association of America provides scholarships, interest free loans, and grants available to children of military personnel seeking their undergraduate degree. The online application is available in early November and information on the different programs may be found at www.moaa.org/education.

The DAV Youth Volunteer Scholarship – The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship encourages young people to get involved in volunteer work to

assist sick and disabled veterans. This program recognizes young volunteers who are active participants in the VA Voluntary Service program. Volunteers age 21 or younger, volunteering a minimum of 100 hours at a VA medical center during the previous calendar year, are eligible. Scholarships can be used at any accredited institution of higher learning; to include universities, colleges, community colleges, vocational schools, etc. Scholarships must be utilized in full prior to the recipient attaining the age of 25. Employees of the DAV national organization and their families are not eligible to receive a scholarship. Nominations for this award must be submitted by the Voluntary Service Program Manager at the VA medical center. For additional information, please visit www.dav.org/volunteers/jesse_brown_scholarship.html.

The VFW's Military Family Scholarship program provides 25 \$3,000 scholarships annually to VFW members who are currently serving in uniform or have been discharged within the 12 months before the December 31 deadline. The scholarships will be awarded to five members from each branch of service (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard) during the first quarter of the year following the deadline. Complete information and entry forms can be accessed at www.vfw.org.

The Women's Army Corps Veteran's Association Scholarship recognizes relatives of Army service women. This scholarship is based upon academic achievement and leadership as expressed through co-curricular activities and community involvement. A \$1,500.00 scholarship will be given annually. The recipient will be notified by mail. For additional information please visit www.armywomen.org.

The Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) offers the Kathryn F. Gruber Scholarship Program. These scholarships are available for spouses or dependent children of blinded veterans. Blindness need not be service connected nor do they have to be members of BVA. Additional information is available at www.bva.org.

The Vietnam Veterans of America Mike Nash Memorial Scholarship is available to members of Vietnam Veterans of America or spouses, children, stepchildren, or grandchildren of Vietnam veterans who are deceased, missing in action, or killed in action. Applications must be received by June 30th of each year. Please visit www.vva.org for more information.

The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc., offers a scholarship for members in good standing for at least one year. It is available for a member's spouse or their linear descendants to include adopted children, stepchildren, foster children and their immediate descendants. The applicant must be enrolled or accepted to a program of any post-secondary education. Additional information is available by calling 1-800-843-8626.

The Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA) offers 15 new scholarships (13 - \$900 and 2 - \$1000) each school year to the dependents of NCOA members. The deadline for submission of applications is March 31. An information sheet and application can be obtained at: www.ncoausa.org.

The LaVerne Noyes Scholarship is awarded on an annual basis to direct blood descendants of someone who has served in the U.S. Army or Navy in World War I and whose service was terminated by death or honorable discharge. The applicant must be a United States citizen who is a blood descendant of a United States Army or Navy World War I veteran, who served for at least four months prior to November 11, 1918, and whose military service was terminated by death or an honorable discharge. A recipient must be enrolled full-time in a degree-seeking undergraduate program. This scholarship is awarded on an annual basis. The dollar amount of the scholarship will be determined by the total number of eligible recipients and the funds available from the endowment each year. Please contact your university's tuition assistance office for information.

Writing Contests

The Voice of Democracy is a broadcast essay contest for students in grades 9 -12. Students are required to write and record a script on a patriotic theme. This year's theme is "Freedom's Challenge." The essay, entry form and cassette or CD must be submitted to a local VFW Post. A total of more than \$2.5 million in scholarships and incentives are given

each year. State competition winners are invited to Washington, D.C., to compete for \$145,000 in scholarships. Deadline for entries is November 1, 2006. For additional information visit www.vfw.org.

Patriot's Pen is an essay contest for students in grades 6 - 8. The entry, deadline and competition process is the same as the Voice of Democracy. Winners compete at the national level for U.S. Savings Bonds.



Robert Turtill

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Important Things to Remember

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. If not in uniform, a person should remove his or her hat with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, with the hand over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

Display the U.S. flag every day, but especially on national and state holidays. On Memorial Day, the flag should be flown at half-staff in the forenoon (sunrise until noon), then raised to its normal position at the top of the staff. When raising the flag to half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it half-way. When lowering a flag that has been flying at half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it all the way. The U.S. flag should be displayed on or near the main building of every public institution, in or near every school on school days, and in or near every polling place on election days. Always hoist the U.S. flag briskly. Lower it slowly and ceremoniously.

Things Not to Do

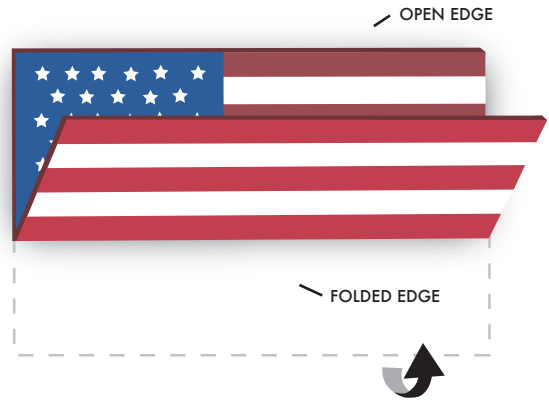
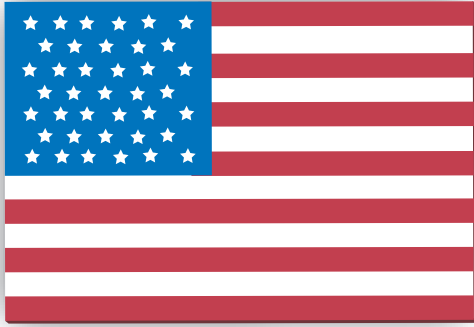
Never show disrespect to the U.S. flag. Never dip (lower quickly and then raise) the U.S. flag to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags and organization or institutional flags are dipped as a mark of honor. Never display the U.S. flag with the field of stars at the bottom, except as a distress signal. Never let the U.S. flag touch anything beneath it — ground, floor, water or merchandise. Never carry the U.S. flag horizontally, but always aloft and free.

Always allow the U.S. flag to fall free — never use the U.S. flag as drapery, festooned, drawn back or up in folds. For draping platforms and decoration in general, use blue, white and red bunting. Always arrange the bunting with blue above, the white in the middle and the red below. Never fasten, display, use or store the U.S. flag in a manner that will permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way. Never use the U.S. flag as a covering or drape for a ceiling. Never place anything on the U.S. flag and never have placed upon it, or on any part of it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing of any nature.

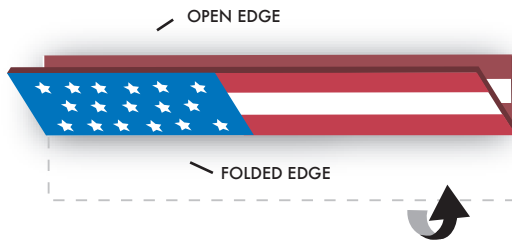
The U.S. flag should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, and the like; printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discarded; or used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, fire fighters, police officers and members of patriotic organizations. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff from which the flag is flown.



Many Marines gave their lives to raise the American flag on Mt. Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima in 1945. Based on a photograph by Joseph Rosenthal, the Marine Corps War Memorial depicts this sacrifice. Located by Arlington National Cemetery, it is a tribute to all the Marines who have fallen in combat.



(a) Fold the lower striped section of the flag over the blue field.



(b) Folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge.



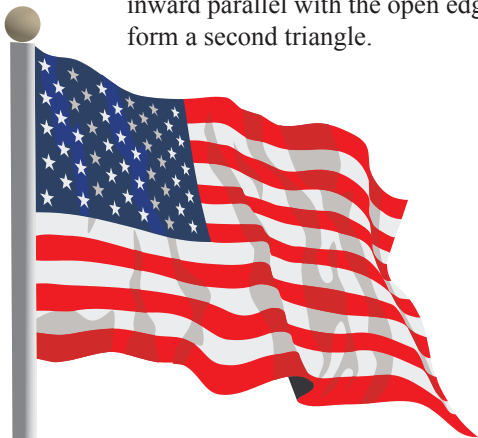
(c) A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.



(d) Outer point is then turned inward parallel with the open edge to form a second triangle.

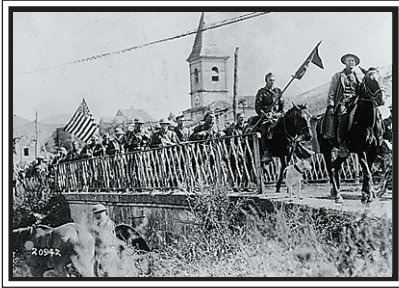


(e) Triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in the triangular shape with only the blue field visible.



When the U.S. flag is no longer in suitable condition for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. Many veterans groups perform this service with dignified, respectful flag retirement ceremonies.

America's Wars



WORLD WAR I (1917 - 1918)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....	4,734,991
Battle Deaths.....	53,402
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	63,114
Non-mortal Woundings.....	204,002
Living Veterans.....	less than 25



WORLD WAR II (1941 - 1945)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....	16,112,566
Battle Deaths.....	291,557
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	113,842
Non-mortal Woundings.....	671,846
Living Veterans.....	3,279,769



KOREAN WAR (1950 - 1953)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....	5,720,000
Battle Deaths.....	33,741
Other Deaths (in Theater).....	2,833
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	17,672
Non-mortal Woundings.....	103,284
Living Veterans.....	3,144,812



VIETNAM WAR (1964 - 1975)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....	8,744,000
Battle Deaths.....	47,424
Other Deaths (in Theater).....	10,785
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	32,000
Non-mortal Woundings.....	153,303
Living Veterans.....	7,989,714



GULF WAR (1990 - 1991)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....	2,322,332
Battle Deaths.....	147
Other Deaths (in Theater).....	235
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	1,590
Non-mortal Woundings.....	467
Living Veterans.....	2,015,235



WAR ON TERROR (2001 - PRESENT)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....	1,378,014
Deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.....	227,400
Battle Deaths.....	2,027
Other Deaths (in Theater).....	650
Non-mortal Woundings.....	18,586
Living Veterans.....	555,478

Veterans Day National Committee 2006

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President of the United States

Chairman

The Honorable R. James Nicholson
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Honorary Members

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National Association of State
Veterans Homes

National Association of State
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National Association for
Uniformed Services

Japanese American Veterans
Association

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